



MORE TIPS ON DRIVING AROUND SEMIS

Drive Truck Smart, Not Semi Stupid

With more than six million commercial motor vehicles on our roads and highways, practicing a few methods of driving safely around trucks is a must:

- If you are traveling behind a dump truck, or any vehicle that is losing debris, back off and notify law enforcement.
- You should not use your high beams when traveling behind a semi at night. These bright lights will reflect in the truck's mirrors and may blind the driver. Be sure to dim your high beams whenever approaching another vehicle at night from either direction.
- It's okay to pass multiple-trailer combinations as well as single-trailer trucks. However, whether you're passing on a two-lane road or an eight-lane highway, make sure you have extra time to get around these larger vehicles. On a level highway, it takes about three to five seconds longer to pass a truck than a car.
- Before pulling in front of a truck, allow one car length for every 10 miles per hour. Example: if traveling 60 mph leave six car lengths before merging into the lane the semi is traveling in.
- After passing a truck and returning to the right lane, do not slow down. Maintain your speed and develop a safe space between the truck and your car. Trucks also take longer to regain their speed after being slowed down, and may slow the other traffic behind them.
- Passenger vehicle drivers cause 75 percent of crashes involving semis and automobiles. One reason is that trucks tend to travel at a consistent speed with fewer lane changes than cars.
- Distracted driving (talking on cell phone, changing stereo, etc.) by the auto driver is a major factor of crashes between semis and autos. Other major contributors to crashes between cars and semis are:
 - Cars operating at dawn or dusk without headlights on
 - Failure of cars to stop at stop signs or signals
 - Driving while impaired
- Head-on collisions cause 23 percent of fatalities involving semi trucks and cars. Many auto drivers become frustrated while driving behind semis and will pass left of center or swerve into oncoming traffic to pass the semi. This act often results in the automobile striking a vehicle in the oncoming traffic.

